



Course Outline (Higher Education)

School:	School of Engineering, Information Technology and Physical Sciences
Course Title:	EARTH'S LIVING HISTORY
Course ID:	SCGEO1105
Credit Points:	15.00
Prerequisite(s):	Nil
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	(SX523)
ASCED:	010703

Description of the Course:

Earth's Living History is a survey of the major developments in the history of life, set against a background of change in the physical world. It is designed to improve the communication and teamwork skills of participants.

Grade Scheme: Graded (HD, D, C, P, MF, F, XF)

Work Experience:

No work experience: Student is not undertaking work experience in industry.

Placement Component: No

Supplementary Assessment: Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the course but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above and submitted all major assessment tasks.

Program Level:

Level of course in Program	AQF Level of Program					
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Introductory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	✓	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Intermediate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Examine the fossil record and interpret the history of the development of life on Earth
- K2.** Discuss the causes of mass extinction and the subsequent recovery of ecosystems
- K3.** Describe the variety in global environments through time
- K4.** Explain the particularities of human evolution that distinguish humans from other species

Skills:

- S1.** Marshal a scientific case in regard to an argument
- S2.** Appraise an argument critically
- S3.** Distinguish certain types of fossils
- S4.** Employ the poster style of scientific communication

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Work effectively in a team
- A2.** Communicate more effectively and with greater confidence
- A3.** Apply a "deep-time" perspective to modern biological and environmental issues

Course Content:

A broad survey of some of the main developments in the history of life as discerned from the rock record spanning nearly four billion years, including:

Topics may include:

- Human evolution
- Earliest evidence of life
- The transition from prokaryotes to eukaryotes
- The Cambrian explosion
- Phanerozoic mass extinction, possible causes and recovery
- The transition of animals from the sea to the land
- Aspects of the global environment through time
- Evolution - fact and theory
- Creationism versus evolutionary theory
- Importance of the palaeontological record and ecology for public policy.

Values:

- V1.** Appreciate the context of humans in time and their relationship to other organisms
- V2.** Appreciate the pertinence of scientific knowledge to public policy
- V3.** Take an increased responsibility for safety in outdoor activities

Graduate Attributes

The Federation University FedUni graduate attributes (GA) are entrenched in the [Higher Education Graduate Attributes Policy](#) (LT1228). FedUni graduates develop these graduate attributes through their engagement in explicit learning and teaching and assessment tasks that are embedded in all FedUni programs. Graduate attribute attainment typically follows an incremental development process mapped through program progression. **One or more graduate attributes must be evident in the specified learning outcomes and assessment for each FedUni course, and all attributes must be directly assessed in each program**

Graduate attribute and descriptor		Development and acquisition of GAs in the course	
		Learning Outcomes (KSA)	Assessment task (AT#)
GA 1 Thinkers	Our graduates are curious, reflective and critical. Able to analyse the world in a way that generates valued insights, they are change makers seeking and creating new solutions.	K1, S1-3 and A3	1-4
GA 2 Innovators	Our graduates have ideas and are able to realise their dreams. They think and act creatively to achieve and inspire positive change.	K2-4, S1-2 and A3	2
GA 3 Citizens	Our graduates engage in socially and culturally appropriate ways to advance individual, community and global well-being. They are socially and environmentally aware, acting ethically, equitably and compassionately.	K4, S1 and A1	3
GA 4 Communicators	Our graduates create, exchange, impart and convey information, ideas, and concepts effectively. They are respectful, inclusive and empathetic towards their audience, and express thoughts, feelings and information in ways that help others to understand.	K2-4, S4 and A1-2	1-3
GA 5 Leaders	Our graduates display and promote positive behaviours, and aspire to make a difference. They act with integrity, are receptive to alternatives and foster sustainable and resilient practices.	Not applicable	Not applicable

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Learning Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, S3, S4, A2, V3	Fossil identification	Laboratory work and Reports	10-30%
K1, K3, S1, S2, A3, V1, V2	Research, discussion and critique of contemporary scientific argument	Reports / Presentations	10-30%
K1, K3, K4, S2, A1, A2, A3	Research of scientific problems as part of a team	Oral presentations	10-30%
K1, K2, K3, K4, S1, S2, V1	Scientific resource folder	Final test	30-50%

Adopted Reference Style:

Other (Australian Journal of Earth Sciences)

Refer to the [library website](#) for more information

Fed Cite - [referencing tool](#)